

## Meeting Notes

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State of the Schools, Ward 7  
January 29, 2011  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Kelly Miller MS, 301 49th St. NE  
Facilitator: Dr. Jeffrey Grant

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### Attendance:

Ward 7 school principals, community members, parents and families, Mayor Vincent Gray, Interim Chancellor Kaya Henderson, Councilmember Yvette Alexander, School Board Member Dorothy Douglas and DCPS staff members.

### Notes:

Cultural sensitive curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Would like to see more cultural sensitivity in our school system</li><li>▪ We need to create a school culture that re-enforces positive self-esteem for our children</li><li>▪ We have to heal the person-hood of children that come from dysfunctional families</li><li>▪ Must support intelligent children that want to do the right thing</li><li>▪ Need to be more understanding of children's culture</li></ul>
Parent and family engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Education starts at home</li><li>▪ Must find a way to utilize active parents</li><li>▪ The school system must compensate where parenting fails our children</li><li>▪ Keep schools open as a way to keep parents engaged</li></ul>
Equal access to technological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Children have the equipment they need to succeed at school, but not at home</li><li>▪ Will there be partnerships to aid students who don't have access to the necessary technology at home?</li><li>▪ Provide each student a personal computer – have the parents pay a nominal fee</li><li>▪ Pull from grant funding as well</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At Woodson HS there are computers available to students now through the DC Community College</li> </ul>
Increased parent & community input in school leadership selections/decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like to see increased parent and community input on school leadership decisions</li> <li>Need school leadership that is qualified and passionate; not just a manager</li> </ul>
River Terrace ES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must keep River Terrace open</li> <li>Bring Headstart and Pre-K back to River Terrace</li> <li>Tap into daycare facilities</li> </ul>
Community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We all need to step up and stand for education</li> <li>Need more positive male role models</li> <li>This is about bringing the community together</li> </ul>
The budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can DC government agencies adopt a school to alleviate some of the budget concerns</li> <li>Need funding to support increased staffing in our classrooms</li> </ul>
Feedback for teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers would love to hear from parents and work with them to improve their schools</li> </ul>
More Arts and STEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No STEM schools for Ward 7 students to attend</li> <li>Would like to see an increase in arts curriculum</li> </ul>
Student support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must figure out how to engage all of our students</li> <li>How do we keep them motivated so they can perform at their highest level</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Needs to be instruction in after school programs</li> <li>▪ Need student groups to address what would make them feel safe at school</li> </ul>
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Our children need a diploma that will help them compete for college admissions and jobs</li> <li>▪ Concerned about the literacy rate in Ward 7</li> <li>▪ Students need more rigorous coursework</li> <li>▪ Would like to see summer enrichment programs centered around math</li> </ul>
Homeless students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Homeless children are being turned away at school doors</li> <li>▪ Community willingness to help has been caught up in bureaucratic red tape</li> <li>▪ Had to go through school PTA to give kids what they needed to be properly fitted for school</li> </ul>
Student materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Classrooms don't have enough books</li> <li>▪ A solution is to use downloadable e-books</li> </ul>